

Michigan Women

A Publication of the Michigan Women's Commission

Summer 2008



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Michigan Women in the Workforce

The Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives of the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth prepared a report for the Michigan Women's Commission entitled "Michigan Women in the Workforce." The Michigan Women's Commission thanks them for preparing the report. The following are highlights from the report.

The labor force participation rate for women in Michigan matched national rates. 59.2 percent of the working



age population are active in the labor market. Labor force participation for Michigan women has increased by 4 percentage points over the last twenty years.

In 2007, women held 1.7 million of 3.5 million jobs, representing 48 percent of the total jobs in Michigan. Women held over 80 percent of Michigan jobs in health-related sectors including nursing and residential care facilities, hospitals, ambulatory health care services, and social assistance.

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Michigan Women in the Workforce

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Female Concentrated Industries

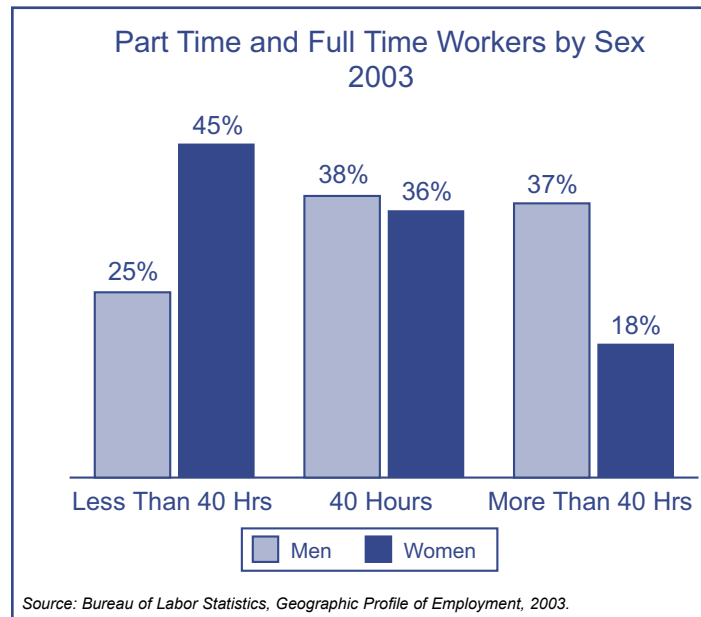
Industry	Total Michigan Jobs (Men & Women)	Share of Total Michigan Jobs Held by Women
Average, All Industries	3,543,769	47.7%
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	91,276	83.8%
Hospitals	167,227	81.2%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	173,507	81.0%
Social Assistance	54,782	80.1%
Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	39,561	75.8%
Private Households	4,545	74.2%
Personal Services	39,035	73.3%
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	85,364	71.9%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	54,692	70.1%
Health and Personal Care Stores	31,735	68.4%

Source: MI-DLEG, Bureau of Labor Market Information, Local Employment Dynamics (LED).

In Michigan, 38 percent of men and 36 percent of women work a forty hour week from the most recent data gathered in 2003. However, men worked a 40-hour work week more frequently than women, and more women than men worked less than a 40-hour work week.

The median earning for Michigan women was \$20,985 versus \$34,153 for men in 2006. Overall, full-time, year-round female workers earned about 71 cents to a man's dollar. The national ratio was 77 cents of women's earnings to a man's dollar.

Hours per Week at Work for Men & Women, Michigan



Median Earnings by Gender and Work Status (Full vs. Part-time Employment)

	Nation	Michigan
Total	\$27,239	\$26,851
Male:		
Total	\$32,369	\$34,153
Full-time, year-round	\$42,210	\$47,329
Other	\$11,924	\$11,449
Female:		
Total	\$22,097	\$20,985
Full-time, year-round	\$32,649	\$33,748
Other	\$10,336	\$9,874

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006.

August 26th - Women's Equality Day

This year we celebrate the 88th anniversary of the women's right to vote!

In 1920, women won a 72-year political campaign that began at Seneca Falls in 1848. Ratified on August 26th, the 19th Amendment, the Woman Suffrage Amendment to the United States Constitution, secured full voting rights for women. The amendment reads, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

In 1867, Michigan granted women taxpayers the right to vote for school trustees but rejected total woman suffrage. In 1918, Michigan voters approved a state constitutional amendment to grant women the full right to vote.

Let's commemorate this day by registering to vote, running for office, supporting candidates and getting out the vote for the November election.

"Tremendous amounts of talent are being lost to our society just because that talent wears a skirt."

Shirley Chisholm

POVERTY SUMMIT

On November 13 Michigan will sponsor its first statewide Poverty Summit, a one-day event to organize the fight to eliminate poverty and provide help to Michigan families in financial crisis. “Voices for Action: The 2008 Poverty Summit” will bring together activists, leaders and families to share strategies and develop new networks to fight poverty and provide help to Michigan families.

“Fighting poverty and helping families who are facing economic crisis is critical to the state’s work to improve our economy,” said Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who will give a morning address at the conference. “Working to diversify the economy and create new jobs is one critical way we can help families address their personal economic crises. This summit will allow us to share other best practices and build new networks across the state.”

The summit will highlight the work government and communities are already doing to address poverty and economic crisis in Michigan. An advisory group is merging known solutions with citizen input to define actions that complement current programs to address the impacts of financial crisis. Afternoon breakout sessions will focus on work and employment, education, health care and housing in communities.

Martin Luther King III, son of the late civil rights leader, has agreed to participate as the morning keynote speaker. King currently directs the Atlanta, Ga.-based *Realizing The Dream*, a private nonprofit organization dedicated to fulfilling the work of his parents.

“Almost one in three people in Michigan, including a half million children, are low-income and cannot meet

their basic needs without assistance,” said Ismael Ahmed, director of Michigan Department of Human Services. “If we leave one-third of our people behind, our economic recovery won’t be complete. The Poverty Summit will build on what we are doing now at the state level and in communities. This will make Michigan a national leader in addressing these issues.”

Ahmed and Sonia Harb of the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services in Dearborn are co-chairs for the event. Harb chairs the Governor’s Commission on Community Action and Economic Opportunity, which held six poverty forums around Michigan earlier this year.

“We heard from scores of Michigan residents about what they do to survive poverty and low-income life, the strategies they use, and the strategies the state and communities could adopt that might make things better,” Harb said.

The summit will give voice to residents who are struggling and bring citizens, anti-poverty experts, employers, advocates, foundations, community representatives and leaders from government and commerce together to forge a comprehensive approach to eliminate poverty in Michigan.

Director Ahmed spoke to the Michigan Women’s Commission at its June 11 meeting and highlighted this conference. For more information about the conference go to www.michigan.gov/dhs.

WOMEN AND POVERTY

According to the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives in the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Michigan household poverty rates were similar to nationwide averages in 2006. Nearly 30 percent of poverty households in Michigan were families with a female head of household.

According to the National Women’s Law Center, some 15 million U.S. women live in poverty, as indicated by the 2006

Poverty Rates by Household Type

	Nation			Michigan		
	Total Households	Households Below Poverty	Poverty Rates	Total Households	Households Below Poverty	Poverty Rates
Total Households	111,617,402	14,222,291	12.7%	3,869,117	493,878	12.8%
Family households:	74,564,066	7,282,926	9.8%	2,579,201	248,142	9.6%
Married-couple family	55,521,868	2,623,085	4.7%	1,938,688	80,734	4.2%
Other family:	19,042,198	4,659,841	24.5%	640,513	167,408	26.1%
Male householder	5,121,415	675,549	13.2%	165,478	24,077	14.5%
Female householder	13,920,783	3,984,292	28.6%	475,035	143,331	30.2%
Nonfamily households:	37,053,336	6,939,365	18.7%	1,289,916	245,736	19.1%
Male householder	17,232,259	2,761,681	16.0%	608,406	98,607	16.2%
Female householder	19,821,077	4,177,684	21.1%	681,510	147,129	21.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006.

Census data. Poverty rates are higher for women of color, older women and single mothers. Black

and Hispanic women are about twice as likely to be poor than white women. Roughly 1 in 5 elderly

women are poor, as are 1 in 3 single mothers.

MWC LEGISLATION January 2007 – July 2008

The Michigan Women's Commission has taken a position on the following legislation.

SENATE LEGISLATION

- SB 41 & 42** (Scott & Jacobs) - bills would provide fairness at the pharmacy by providing insurance coverage for contraceptives. Assigned to the Senate Health Policy Committee and hearing held on 05/14/2008. MWC supports.
- SB 275** (Whitmer) - bill would provide an exemption for nursing mothers from jury duty. Passed Senate Judiciary Committee and on 2nd Reading in Senate. Reported favorably to the Committee of the Whole. MWC supports.
- SB 415** (Cherry) - bill requires department to identify information regarding risks and availability of human papillomavirus and provide it to schools. Passed Senate and House, assigned PA 0120'08 with immediate effect. MWC supported the concept.
- SB 417** (Brater) - bill to provide equal compensation for comparable worth. Assigned to Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee. MWC supports.
- SB 666** (Whitmer) - bill for second-parent adoption. Same as HB 4259. In Senate Judiciary Committee. MWC supports.
- SB 1355** (Jacobs) - bill would require an emergency room or urgent care clinic to offer factually accurate written information on emergency contraceptives to victims of sexual assault. Same as HB 6048. Assigned to Senate Health Policy Committee. MWC supports.
- SB 1356** (Brater) - bill would create an emergency contraceptive education act. Same as HB 6050. Assigned to Senate Health Policy Committee. MWC supports.
- SB 1357** (Cherry) - bill would require pharmacists to fill prescriptions without bias. Same as HB 6049. Assigned to Senate Health Policy Committee. MWC supports.

HOUSE LEGISLATION

- HB 4048** (Griffin) - bill would allow no reason absentee ballot. On Second Reading in the House. Same as SB 12. MWC supports.
- HB 4259** (Condino) - bill would allow second-parent adoption. Reported with recommendation, which includes substitute H-2. On second reading in House. MWC supports.

HB 4447 & 4448 (Warren) - bills would allow different addresses for driver license and voting. Passed House, assigned to the Senate Campaign & Election Oversight Committee.

HB 4564 (Steil) - bill would mandate joint custody in disputes between parents except for limited circumstances. Assigned to House Judiciary Committee, hearing held on 05/07/2008. MWC opposes.

HB 4625 (Bauer) - bill amends the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act to provide compensation equally for work of comparable value. Passed House and assigned to Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee. MWC supports.

HB 4626 (Byrnes) - bill amends the Penal Code to provide penalties for violating comparable worth. Passed House and assigned to Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee. MWC supports.

HB 4627 (K. Law) - bill creates a Commission on Pay Equity. Passed House and in Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee. MWC supports.

HB 5054-5057 (Donigan) - bills to create and provide funding for sexual assault victims' forensic medical intervention. Passed House and in Senate Judiciary Committee. MWC supports.

HB 5136 (Miller) - bill to increase penalties for third or subsequent violation regarding wage discrimination based on sex. Assigned to House Labor Committee. MWC supports.

HB 5322 (Clack) - bill requires schools to provide information on HPV. Passed House and Senate, assigned PA 121'08 with immediate effect. MWC supports concept.

HB 6048 (Warren) - bill would require an emergency room or urgent care clinic to offer factually accurate written information on emergency contraceptives to victims of sexual assault. Assigned to Senate Health Policy Committee. MWC supports.

HB 6049 (Smith, Alma) - bill would require pharmacists to fill prescriptions without bias. Reported from the House Judiciary Committee with substitute H-1, on second reading in House. MWC supports.

HB 6050 (Donigan) - bill would create an emergency contraceptive education act. On third reading in House, postponed temporarily. MWC supports.

For more information, visit <http://www.legislature.mi.gov>.

MICHIGAN ELDER ECONOMIC SECURITY INITIATIVE

Michigan has received a grant to participate in the Michigan Elder Economic Security Initiative (EESI). The grant is from Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW), a 40-year old national organization with a mission to help women and their families achieve economic independence and equality of opportunity.

The Michigan Elder Economic Security Initiative is a multi-year project that offers a conceptual framework and concrete tools to shape public policies and programs to promote the economic well being of older adults, whether or not they have the capacity to be fully self-reliant or are in need of certain public supports to age in place with dignity.

Women are almost twice as likely to live in poverty in their senior years as men:

- 6.6 percent of men live in poverty; whereas, 11.5 percent of women live in poverty
- Among women age 65 and over, poverty disproportionately hits women of color
- The life expectancies for women average three years longer than for men, but according to a 2004 survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, the median salary for women is 24 percent less than that for men.

There is a need for a new measure of income adequacy in our state and nation. The Federal Poverty Level is inadequate and underestimates actual expenses for even a bare-bones existence. The EESI will result in a new reliable measure of income adequacy.

The lead state organization for the grant is Elder Law of Michigan and it is supported by AARP Michigan, Michigan Women's Commission, University of Michigan Institute for Social Research, Michigan Office for Services to the Aging, PHI Michigan and others. If you'd like to join the coalition or to receive updates on the progress being made, send an email to info@elderslaw.org.

The Michigan Nursing Corps

The Michigan Nursing Corps was created by Governor Jennifer Granholm in 2007 to solve the nursing shortage in our state.

"One area that demands our special attention is nursing. Today we have a nursing shortage in communities across our state. Yet we have waiting lists of people who are anxious to become nurses. Something's wrong with this picture, and we are going to fix it. Tonight we are launching the Michigan Nursing Corps, an initiative to train new nurses. We will prepare 500 nursing educators to train 3,000 new nurses in just three years."



It is estimated that by 2010 Michigan will be short 7,000 RNs and by 2015 that number jumps to 18,000. Last year, Michigan nursing schools turned away over 4,000 qualified applicants for lack of student slots.

Working with Michigan's Chief Nurse, Jeanette Klemczak, the Governor requested funds from the Legislature to:

- a. Bolster faculty and institutional capacity to support increased enrollment through accelerated nursing education programs.
- b. Provide tuition and stipends to allow graduate-level nursing students to enroll in full-time programs and graduate as faculty, who will then sign contracts to teach in a Michigan nursing program for 5 years.
- c. Shave the time for completion by 25% to 50%.

The Michigan Legislature allocated \$5 million for the program for next year's budget. The Michigan Nursing Corps will provide new classroom faculty and clinical faculty who will, in turn, be able to produce additional RN's to serve Michigan citizens. Michigan will have sufficient nursing faculty to prepare the number of nurses needed to care for Michigan citizens as they age and require significantly more health care. The Nursing Corp will also be able to replace the large numbers of nursing faculty who are and will be retiring.

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CALENDAR

August 5 – State Primary. www.michigan.gov/sos

August 24 – Celebration for Women's Equality Day, Women's Hall of Fame, Lansing, 2 – 4 p.m., 213 West Main St, Lansing, MI. See www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org

August 26 – Women's Equality Day. Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment to U.S. Constitution providing women the right to vote. See <http://www.nwhp.org>

September 10 – Michigan Women's Commission meeting, 110 W. Michigan Ave. Lansing . Call (517) 373-2884

October – Domestic Violence Awareness Month (www.ncadv.org) & Breast Cancer Awareness Month (www.cancer.org)

October 6 – Deadline to register for General Election. www.michigan.gov/sos

October 15 – 25th Annual Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Dinner, 5:00 p.m., Sheraton Hotel, Novi. See www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org/pages/october.htm

October 20 – World Osteoporosis Day. www.nof.org

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